

Remarks

Claims 15 and 17-30 were pending in the application. Claims 15, 17-20, and 22-30 were rejected. Claim 21 was objected to. Claim 15 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter. Claims 17-24 and 26-28 are amended. Claims 17-30 are now pending. Claim 21 is the independent claim. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The examiner objected to the abstract, stating that the universal brackets are not clearly defined or limited as to what the bracket structurally constitutes. The written description is amended as suggested by the examiner to clearly define the universal brackets. The abstract is amended to replace "universal supports" with --brackets--. Thus, the simple term --brackets-- is used in the abstract, and a detailed description of the universal brackets recited in the claims and shown in the figures is provided in the written description. The objection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner objected to claim 23 because of a noted informality. Claim 23 is amended to address the examiner's comments. The objection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 15, 17, 19-20, and 22-30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Capizzo, in view of Parker. The examiner also rejected claims 15, 19, 20, 24-28, and 30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodriguez '520, in view of Parker. The examiner also rejected claim 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Capizzo, in view of Hummer Jr. The examiner also objected to claim 21 as depending from a rejected

base claim, but acknowledged that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 21 is amended into independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 15, which is cancelled. Further, the written description is amended to more clearly define the universal brackets shown in the figures and recited in claims 21, in the manner suggested by the examiner. The objection to claim 21, therefore, should be withdrawn. Claims 17-20, 22-24, and 26-28 are amended to depend from independent claim 21. Claims 25, 29, and 30 depend from claims 24, 23, and 26, respectively. It is therefore submitted that claims 17-20 and 22-30 are now allowable, and the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



May 17, 2010

Date

TMC:dam

IP STRATEGIES
Customer No. 49691
Thomas M. Champagne
Registration No. 36,478
828.253.8600
828.253.8620 fax